

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-23 are pending in the application. By this amendment, Fig. 6 is being amended, and the abstract is being shortened, as required in the Office Action, and the specification and claims 1, 12 and 23 are being amended to correct a typographical error in an equation set forth therein. No new matter is involved.

In paragraph 4, which begins on page 2 of the Office Action, the drawings are objected to because Fig. 6 does not contain the legend --Prior Art--. In response, Applicant is submitting a replacement sheet in which Fig. 6 is labeled with the legend --Prior Art--. Therefore, the requirement for correction of the drawing has been complied with.

In paragraph 5 on page 3 of the Office Action, the abstract is objected to because it exceeds 150 words in length. In response, Applicant is attaching a replacement abstract which has been shortened to the 150 word limit. Therefore, the requirement that the abstract be corrected has been complied with.

In paragraph 7 which begins on page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. As pointed out in the following paragraph, independent claims 1, 12 and 23 recite "L represents a number of characters which can be arranged in a Y direction as another of said row direction and said column direction and is defined as an integer equal to or larger than 2". Such claims also contain the recitation "J represents a number of characters which can be arranged in said Y direction and is defined as an integer satisfying the relationship of $1 \leq J \leq L$ ". According to the Office Action, such equation can be satisfied when L is equal to 1, and this contradicts the earlier recitation that L is an integer equal to or larger than 2, thereby rendering the claims indefinite.

In reviewing the specification and claims, Applicant has noted a typographical error in the equation in question. Specifically, the latter part of the equation should contain the symbol "<" and not " \leq " between the "J" and the "L" so that the correct expression for the equation is " $1 \leq J < L$." This error is no doubt responsible for the confusion. "M" and "L" represent "text matrix" and "N" and "J" represent "display matrix." A fixed prerequisite is that "L" is equal to or larger than 2; as noted in lines 16-20 of page 7 of the specification. On the other hand, "J" may be 1 (one line) at its smallest, as described with reference to Fig. 18 in the specification. Therefore, "J" may be equal to or larger than 1, but must be smaller than "L" which is 2 when at its smallest.

Applicant is amending the specification and abstract and claims 1, 12 and 23 to correct the typographical error in the formula.

Paragraph 7 on page 3 of the Office Action further refers to dependent claims 3 and 14 and to the recitation therein "each of said J candidate processing matrices having at least part thereof overlapping said display matrix". In this connection, the Office Action states that Applicant fails to distinctly point out how the matrices overlap, thereby rendering the claims indefinite.

In this connection, Applicant wishes to point out that the overlapping referred to is described on page 39 of the specification with reference to Figs. 17-19. In this connection, it should be appreciated that the term "overlapping" as used in this connection means that which is "repeated" or "in the same manner as."

In paragraph 9 which begins on page 4 of the Office Action, claims 1-10, 12-21, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Savitch publication in view of the Sedgewick publication. In paragraph 10 which begins on page 10 of the Office Action, claims 11 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Savitch and Sedgewick in further view

of U.S. Patent 6,149,325 of Nunokawa et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In rejecting the claims as obvious over Savitch in view of the other references, the Office Action states that Savitch discloses everything set forth in the independent claims, except for its failure to specifically disclose storing text data representative of each character contained in the text matrix in a manner correlated with a position of the character in a text matrix. However, Savitch does not disclose or suggest the essential elements of the independent claims, such as claim 1, so that Sedgewick alone or with the attempted combination of the Nunokawa et al. '325 reference does not cure the basic deficiencies of Savitch.

Savitch is an explanatory text for programming. According to the Office Action, Savitch discloses at pages 610 and 611 thereof, all of the limitations of claim 1 except for the limitation of the second step in the claim ("storing text data ... in said text matrix"). However, a person skilled in the art of character processing (the art of programming) would not be expected to formulate the invention set forth in claim 1 based on partial and fragmentary pieces of information relating to programming disclosed in Savitch, even with the aid of an auxiliary reference such as Sedgewick.

More specifically, the disclosure on pages 610 and 611 of Savitch would not provide a person skilled in the art with a key to finalizing or formulating those concrete steps set forth in claim 1 which are a series of steps relating to each other to perform an ultimate object in the form of a method of processing characters. Such steps include:

"setting, as a text matrix, a matrix which is capable of having elements...";

"setting, as a display matrix, a partial matrix corresponding to a portion of said text matrix...";

"setting as a k-th candidate processing matrix, an arbitrary k-th one...";

"selecting one of said L candidate processing matrices as a processing matrix, and then determining characters...". Such steps form an essential and substantial part of claim 1, so that such claim is submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over Savitch, even when an attempt is made to combine the teachings of Sedgewick therewith. Similar comments apply to independent claim 12 which contains limitations like those of claim 1 but which is set forth in the form of an apparatus claim. Similar comments also apply to independent claim 23 which defines a storage medium in somewhat different fashion but nevertheless in a form similar to that of claim 12. Therefore, claims 12 and 23 are submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the prior art in addition to claim 23.

Claims 2-11 depend directly or indirectly from and contain all of the limitations of claim 1 so that such claims are also submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the art. Similarly, claims 13-22 depend directly or indirectly from and contain all of the limitations of claim 12, so that such claims are also submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the art.

In conclusion, claims 1-23 are submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the cited art for the reasons stated above. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6700 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Appl. No. 10/034,639
Amdt. Dated January 28, 2005
Reply to Office Action of November 2, 2004

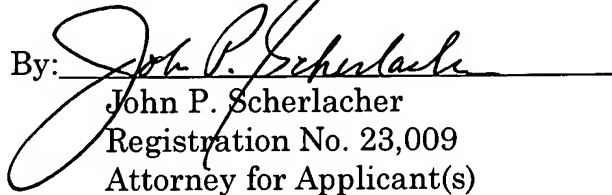
Attorney Docket No. 81752.0118
Customer No.: 26021

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: January 28, 2005

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Attachments

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes a change to Fig. 6. This sheet, which includes Fig. 6, replaces the original sheet which includes Fig. 6. In Fig. 6, the legend "Prior Art" has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet